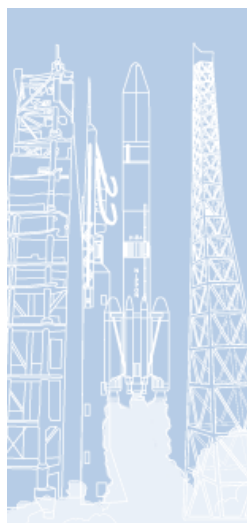


H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 6 (H-IIA F6) was launched at the Tanegashima Space Center on November 29, 2003. However, the mission failed. H-IIA F6 was destroyed via command from the ground, after the vehicle failed to jettison one of its two Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB-As) and could not gain the required elevation and velocity to reach orbit.

From H-IIA F1, launched in August 2001, to H-IIA F5, all the H-IIA launch vehicles had taken off successfully, but the failure of H-IIA F6 was a big blow for Japan's space development program.

Today, space exploration is an important aspect of our lives, and rockets are an absolute necessity for the enrichment of our future. JAXA's mission now is to learn from the H-IIA F6 accident and ensure a successful future for Japanese rocketry.

JAXA is determined to take the necessary steps.



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